FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

Political Developments — The second round of the National Dialogue Conference will begin on 12 March in Lausanne, Switzerland, under President Amin al-Jumayyil's chairmanship, Beirut radio reported. A "reliable source" cited by the radio said the conference will not last more than 2 days and will agree on the "broad lines" of reforms to be adopted by a national unity government. Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt indicated that he has dropped his demand for Al-Jumayyil's resignation but continued to insist that the president be held accountable for the Army's shelling of Druze and Shi'ite areas, according to remarks reported by Radio Monte Carlo. Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri likewise stressed that his movement has not yet achieved its objectives, which are the cancellation of political sectarianism and the liberation of southern Lebanon, Beirut radio reported. On the Christian side, former President Camille Sham'un's National Liberal Party issued a statement broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio opposing the government's decision to abrogate the agreement with Israel and also regretting that the government has not invited representatives of all the main Christian communities to the conference in Lausanne.

Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi welcomed the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, asserting in remarks reported by JANA that Libyan troops in the Al-Biqa' valley must either join the Lebanese in fighting the Israelis, "if there is a need for them," or return to Syria or Libya after having accomplished their mission.

Saudi King Fahd telephoned President Hafiz al-Asad to congratulate the Syrian leader on his success in securing the abrogation of the 17 May accord, Damascus radio reported. While "observers" pointed out that abrogation of the agreement proves it is "impossible to achieve a unilateral agreement between the Zionist enemy and any Arab state in accordance with Israeli-U.S. conditions," the radio said, they also warned that Israel may carry out a major operation against Syria's Armed Forces.

Security Situation — Beirut radio said the situation in and around the capital was relatively calm on the morning of 7 March. A rocket exploded inside the French Embassy compound the previous evening but caused no casualties, AFP noted. In the south, a villager was killed in a clash with Israeli troops, Jerusalem radio reported, while a bomb exploded in Sidon near an IDF convoy in which Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon was traveling.

Syria

President al-Asad has accepted the resignation of the cabinet headed by Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and asked Al-Kasm to form a new government, Damascus radio reported. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon linked these developments with a "power struggle"between the government and Rif'at al-Asad, the president's brother and commander of the Defense Companies, who recently strengthened his forces in Damascus because of a dispute with the government over promotions and appointments in the Armed Forces.

PLO Affairs

"Most" of the PLO dissidents responsible for driving Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his supporters out of Lebanon have "regrouped" in the Dar'a region of Syria near the Jordanian border, AFP reported citing a "well-informed source" in Beirut. The move is seen as coinciding with the renewed dialogue between 'Arafat and Jordan's King Husayn, AFP added.

An anti-'Arafat station calling itself "the Voice of Palestine, the Voice of the Palestinian Revolution, the Voice of National Unity" was monitored recently broadcasting commentaries critical of the PLO-Jordanian talks and 'Arafat's leadership and supportive of further alliances with the socialist states.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi forces launched a "large-scale" attack on 6 March on Iranian troops currently occupying the Majnun Islands, Iraqi Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah announced at a news conference reported by Amman radio and television. The "liberation" of this land, which is the "only" Iraqi territory now under Iranian occupation, was delayed by "other priorities in military calculations" as well as by the difficult terrain, the minister emphasized. The Majnun oil wells have not yet been exploited, but Iraqi forces have taken "all the technical precautions" necessary to protect them, he said.

In a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio, Iran claimed to have "heroically" repulsed the Iraqi counterattack against the southern part of the Majnun Islands. Iranian forces killed or wounded more than 1,000 Iraqi troops and partially destroyed five brigades and one infantry battalion, the communique added.

At his news conference, the Iraqi minister also announced that although the Super Etendard has "given us a longer arm," Iraq will use the Exocet missiles it possesses on "transportation means" other than this plane, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Should the need arise, Iraq will "destroy" Khark Island and do its best to stop Iran exporting its oil, the minister warned.

Meanwhile, President Saddam Husayn, in a speech reported by INA, denounced the "hypocrisy" of the U.S. statement accusing Iraq of using chemical weapons against the Iranians. The United States "borrowed" this claim from Iran in an attempt to "curry" its favor, Saddam added. An Iraqi spokesman, in a statement to INA, said that the U.S. statement contained "many fallacies" and merely repeated Iran's "lies." Iraq will ignore these "unconfirmed allegations" which seek to divert attention from Iranian aggression against Iraq's land and people, the spokesman stated.

Israel

Three people were killed and several others were wounded when an explosive device went off aboard a bus in Ashdod on 7 March, IDF Radio announced. Several suspects have been arrested but no group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that he "has no words to denounce" the shooting incident involving a bus in the Ramallah District on 4 March, Jerusalem television reported. Three of the seven suspects detained in connection with the "ambush" have been released for lack of evidence, Jerusalem radio stated. All seven detainees are members of the KAKH Movement, IDF Radio said citing remarks by the movement's leader, Rabbi Me'ir Kahana. Rabbi Kahana denied initiating the attack but said that he in no way condemned it, Jerusalem radio reported.

Kuwait

French Defense Minister Charles Hernu denied that a military agreement had been signed during talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart, KUNA reported. His visit was aimed primarily at reviewing existing military cooperation between France and Kuwait and ensuring that agreements concluded last year are being implemented. Discussions also centered on the Lebanese crisis and the Iran-Iraq war. The French Minister affirmed his country's readiness to equip and train the "fledgling" armed force of the GCC, KUNA added.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and other ranking Libyan officials met with a Bulgarian delegation led by Todor Zhivkov on 6 March, JANA reported.

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Soviets Reportedly To Launch 'Big Offensive'

Buildup in 4 Areas

LD062052 Riyadh SPA in English 1916 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Islamabad, March 6, SPA — With the end of winter in sight, the Soviets have started a large-scale troops build-up and redeployment as well as drafting of tender-age Afghan youth in an apparent move to launch a big offensive against Afghan mujahideen.

Western diplomatic sources said here today the main target of the Soviet spring offensive could be strategic Panjsher Valley, 85 kms north-east of Kabul.

The sources added that major build-up of the Soviet forces was taking place at four places, namely Gardeyz, the capital of Paktia province, Kandahar in south-eastern Afghanistan, Gulbahar in Panjsher valley and Meydan area in Vardak Province.

On the other hand, the Soviet-propped Afghan regime has now decided to conscript 15 and 16 years old Afghan boys to beef up dwindling Afghan communist army, Western diplomatic sources said.

Meanwhile, the Mujahideen launched a rocket and mortar attack on the Soviet manned garrison at Kabul's Bala Hesar fortress on February 28, they added.

The mujahideen ambushed a motorized column of Soviet troops in late February in Kabul and destroyed over six vehicles by rocket fire and killed around a dozen Soviet soldiers, the sources said.

Panjsher Valley Preparations

TA070635 London BBC World Service in English 0600 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Now to Afghanistan and reports about a possible new Soviet offensive in the Panjsher Valley north of Kabul. Reports have come from civilians living in the valley and from Western diplomats in Islamambad where our correspondent Lan Howe has been studying them:

[Begin Howe recording] The reports from Western diplomats do not present a clear picture of what may be happening in the Panjsher. The diplomats say that according to some of the accounts they have received, the Russians are still trying to negotiate an extention of the truce, but at the same time they say all their Panjsheri sources agree that the residents of the valley are expecting an early Soviet attack. They say that evidence for this is seen in the recent buildup of Soviet forces near the southwestern end of the valley. The diplomats say Panjsheris in Kabul have received letters from relatives in the valley asking for extra shoes and blankets to prepare for the approaching conflict. There were also reports that some of the people of the valley who are not directly involved in fighting were being evacuated.

Masud's political leadership in Pakistan said earlier this week that they had heard from Masud himself that he had ordered an evacuation of civilians from the valley. The commander had disclosed this in a letter in which he also said that fighting had taken place in the Nejrab area on the southern supply route into the valley. He said that Soviet commanders had been flown into the area and 120 helicopters and some 300 armored vehicles had also been moved there. In the letter, the third in recent weeks, Masud said that the latest Soviet activity was a prelude to a seventh major offensive against the Panjsher itself, an offensive which he had earlier predicted would begin in April. [end recording]

Rebels 'Crushed' in Faryab, Herat Provinces

LD061529 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] A group of rebels who had been disrupting the peaceful lives of the people in (Chekhto) village, Qaysar District, Faryab Province, recently has been crushed by the security forces of this district; Nurrodin, one of the rebels, was arrested.

A spokesman of Faryab's security forces said a number of weapons of various types were seized from these criminals by the security forces.

According to another report, rebels — these servants of reaction and imperialism — who had been disrupting the peaceful lives of (Qadakot) village's toiling people were recently killed along with their ringleader, (Sayd Wazir), by the security forces. A number of various weapons and ammunition were seized from these criminals by the security forces.

As a result of operations recently launched by our vigilant security forces in (Mezan), (Charkhana), (Shamsaba), and a number of other villages of (Nezam-e Shahid) District, Herat Province, 45 counterrevolutionary elements along with two ringleaders, (Naqshband) and (Sofi Sado), were killed.

A spokesman of Herat Province said that as a result of these operations 50 Chinese Kalashnikovs, 18 303-caliber rifles, 5 weapons of various types, 25 antitank and antipersonnel mines, 3 caches of ammunition, and counterrevolutionary propaganda leaflets were seized by the security forces.

Gandhi Welcomes Chernenko Proposal on Nuclear Arms

BK061622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister has welcomed the Soviet leader Mr Chernenko's proposal that nuclear weapons should not be used against nonnuclear countries. She said in New Delhi today that this will be a good start toward prohibiting the use of these weapons.

Mrs Gandhi was answering questions by representatives of the nonaligned media on completion of her first year as chairperson of the movement. She pointed out that nonaligned countries want nuclear weapons not to be used at all and this was emphatically stated at their recent summit in New Delhi. But some Western countries with nuclear weapons have not taken very kindly to this.

Mrs Gandhi was asked a number of questions about the Nonaligned Movement and the efforts made since its last summit to find solutions to various problems facing the world. She said one of the most worrying problems today is the Iran-Iraq war. Several leaders had recently written to her to renew her efforts for finding a solution, but nobody had made any specific proposal. She had again written to the two countries requesting them to avoid hitting civilian targets.

On Lebanon, the nonaligned had shown their unity during the Security Council debate.

On Nicaragua, the prime minister said she had been in constant touch with the head of state of the country.

The Nonaligned Bureau has also been very active during the year, but, she pointed out, that not only has there been an increase in the number of problems but also in their complexity. A lot of people want more frequent meetings among the nonaligned.

Answering questions about economic issues, she said several coordination groups have been dealing with various economic matters.

The prime minister said the Nonaligned Movement has in a number of cases helped to ease tension. This by itself is a good thing and worth trying. The movement has a future and is moving in the right direction.

A correspondent asked Mrs Gandhi whether India has come under greater economic and political pressure since she took over as chairperson of the Nonaligned Movement. She said there is no doubt that pressures are increasing on us, but it is difficult to say whether this is because of her chairmanship of the movement. In fact, economic and other pressures are increasing on most developing countries.

Replying to another question, the prime minister said that she had not discussed the Iran-Iraq war with the Soviet defense minister, Marshal Ustinov, but Afghanistan was mentioned.

Reportage on Soviet Defense Minister's Visit

Arrives in Madras

BK061410 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The Soviet defense minister, Marshal Ustinov, arrived in Madras this afternoon on a 2-day visit to the city. He was received at the airport by the state labor minister, Mr Ranghavanandham and the Soviet consul general in Madras, Mr (Chetov). Marshal Ustinov left for (Mamallapuram) to see the ancient Pallava Mandalam [historic monuments]. Tomorrow, Marshal Ustinov will visit the heavy vehicle factory at Avadi near Madras.

Speaks to MIG Factory Workers

BK070343 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] The Soviet defense minister, Marshal Ustinov, has said the production of MIG aircraft in India will help the country in accelerating the pace of greater self-reliance in defense buildup. Marshal Ustinov was speaking to the officials of the Hindustan Aeronautics in (? Ojhar) in Maharashtra. He complimented the workers and technicians for their excellent performance and technicial competence in the construction of different types of MIG aircraft.

Arrives in Visakhapatnam

BK070850 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] The Soviet defense minister, Marshal Ustinov, arrived in Visakhapatnam today. He was received at the airport, among others, by the Vice Admiral M. K. Roy. He will visit naval establishments, naval dockyard, and the Visakhapatnam harbor.

Venkataraman Replies to Lok Sabha on Defense Issues

Pakistan's Arms Buildup

BK070906 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Government has expressed concern over the massive arms buildup in Pakistan with the assistance of the USA and other countries. This was stated by the defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, in the Lok Sabha today. He was replying to a calling attention notice tabled by Mr Ram Vilas Paswan, Janata, and others regarding the situation arising out of the reported multimillion-dollar contract by Pakistan with the USA for purchase of sophisticated arms.

Mr Venkataraman said the government has reason to believe that Pakistan has already acquired sophisticated weapons systems,

including F-16 aircraft, missiles, guns, radar, and other equipment. He said such massive induction of arms into the subcontinent can only heighten tension in the area, as all these acquisitions are far in excess of Pakistan's legitimate defense requirements. He also said our experience since independence has been that arms acquired by Pakistan have invariably been used against us.

The minister referred to the recent media report about Pakistan obtaining the capability of producing enriched uranium. This will have serious security implications. The minister also told the house all these will have an adverse impact on the process of normalization of relations between the two countries. This has already been conveyed to Pakistan as wll as USA.

He further assured the house that government is fully alert to the gravity of the situation, and all necessary measures have been initiated to meet any threat to our security. The discussion was still going on when the last reports came in.

Improved Version of MIG

BK071258 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, has said that though the United States has denied setting up of military bases in Pakistan, India has to be ready to meet any eventuality. He was replying to a calling attention motion in the Lok Sabha today on the situation arising out of the reported supply of sophisticated weapons to Pakistan by the United States. The issue was raised by Mr Ram Vilas Paswan, Janata, and others.

Assuring the members that the balance in military power is still in our favor, Mr Venkataraman said India has sought the improved version of MIG aircraft from the Soviet Union. By all accounts, this aircraft is far superior to F-16. We already have deep penetration aircraft, the Jaguar, and the Dassault Mirage, which together can easily match the F-16. India will also acquire short takeoff and landing aircraft to meet any possible threat to Ladakh from the airfield in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

AFP Report

BK061244 Hong Kong AFP in English 1030 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] New Delhi, March 6 (AFP) — India is seeking to secure an improved version of the MIG aircraft which the Soviet Union proposes to manufacture, Defence Minister Ramaswamy Venkataraman told parliament today. He said the new aircraft would reportedly be superior to the U.S. F-16 and the French Mirage.

Answering questions in the Upper House, he said India was equipping itself with different types of aircraft to meet threats from the acquisition of sophisticated weapons by Pakistan.

Explaining India's policy, he said the Mirage might be required for greater agility and the Anglo-French Jaguar, which India already had in service, might be needed for deep penetration. The basic approach was to choose the right type of aircraft for certain roles, he said. He said India had a complete air defence system but would not disclose the details.

Soviet Defence Minister Marshal Dimitriy Ustinov has said he shared India's concern over the militarisation of Pakistan and said, after arriving here yesterday, that the Soviet Union understood India's intention to strengthen its defence.

One of the deputies asked Mr. Venkataraman whether India was going slow on the proposed Mirage-2000 purchase because it had since decided to go for the MIG-29. He also said Pakistan's construction of air bases at Gilgit and Skardu in the Pakistan part of Kashmir posed a direct threat to parts of northern India.

Mr. Venkataraman replied that India had not asked for the MIG-29 but for an improved version in the same series that the Soviet Union was going to manufacture. He promised that India had taken adequate steps to meet threats to Ladakh, the northernmost border district in India —controlled Kashmir, from the Pakistani air bases. He also said India was equipping the Ladakh air strip with short take-off aircraft.

Mr. Venkataraman implictly maintained the Indian stand that the U.S. arms supply to Pakistan was not solely prompted by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan as Washington had said. He agreed with another questioner that some of the weapons being supplied to the Pakistan navy and airforce could not be used against landlocked Afghanistan.

Italian Trade Minister on Results of Visit

BK290959 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Italy will increase aid allocation as a means to promote peace and progress. This was stated by the Italian foreign trade minister, Mr Nicola Capria, at a news conference in New Delhi this morning. He said Italy has offered India $400 million credit for a 3 years period from this year. Mr Capria said Italy is willing to cooperate with India in the creation of a special fund to make good the gap in the seventh replenishment of the International Development Agency. He said the sixth India-Italian joint committee has arrived at some positive conclusions. It has identified several areas for collaboration between the two countries including energy, automobile industry, and communications.

PRC President Li Xiannian Continues Visit

6 March Banquet

BK070142 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Speaking at a return banquet in honor of the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in Islamabad tonight, the Chinese president, Mr Li Xiannian, described his talks with the president as (?useful), fully demonstrating their relations of mutual trust and sincere cooperation. He said they exchanged views on further strengthening the Sino-Pak friendly relations and cooperation and on major international issues of mutual interest. He said President Mohammad Ziaul Haq was an old friend well-known to the Chinese people. During his three visits to China, he made positive contributions to the enhancement of Sino-Pak friendship. He said he was convinced that the industrious and ingenious Pakistani people will make the Islamic Republic of Pakistan richer, stronger, and more prosperous. He wished new and greater success to the Pakistani people and the Government under the leadership of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. He also expressed heartiest thanks to the president, the government, and the people of Pakistan for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and the members of his delegation.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in his speech expressed the hope that the visit of the Chinese president to Pakistan would further expand and consolidate the existing relations between the two countries. He said that these bonds of friendship existing between the two countries were fully reflected in the economic, technical, and cultural cooperation between Pakistan and China. The president said during his talks with the Chinese president there was not only identity of views on matters of mutual interest, but the two sides also expressed the desire to further promote the bilateral relations.

Arrival in Lahore

BK070646 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Chinese President and Madame Li Xiannian were accorded a very warm welcome to Lahore a short while ago when they arrived on a 2-day visit. President and Mrs Mohammad Ziaul Haq accompanied the distinguished guests. Following the airport ceremony, the Chinese president and his wife viewed the annual horse and cattle show at [name indistinct] stadium.

Finance Minister Meets PRC's Tian Jiyun

BK070130 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Ways and means to further expand the economic, technological, and scientific cooperation between Pakistan and China were reviewed at a meeting in Islamabad today between the visiting Chinese vice premier, Mr Tian Jiyun, and the finance minister, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan. The two sides discussed a number of proposals to further expand trade and foster better economic cooperation between them. The Chinese vice premier expressed satisfaction at the increasing technological and economic cooperation between the two countries. He said China was keen to further develop the cooperation on the basis of equality and mutuality.

The Pakistan finance minister listed a number of sectors where there could be enough scope for the expansion of technological and economic cooperation. These included energy, transfer of technology, and bilateral trade. He expressed the hope that collaboration between Pakistan and China would continue to grow.

Later, the Chinese vice premier handed over a list of medical goods to the federal finance minister as a gift from the Chinese Red Crescent for the Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The medical goods were (?flown to) Pakistan from China.

Reports on Brazilian Foreign Minister's Visit

Meeting With Yaqub Khan

BK031706 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and his Brazilian counterpart, Mr Ramiro Guerreiro, exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and on regional and international issues in Rawalpindi this afternoon. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the talks, which signifies bright prospects for cooperation between the two countries.

Earlier, while talking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport, the Brazilian foreign minister said there is great scope for promotion of closer relations between Pakistan and his country. He noted the need for promoting a closer relationship between the two countries, especially in trade, as actual bilateral trade is much less than the prospects. Brazil desires economic cooperation with Pakistan, both in the private and public sectors. He has brought a 25-member delegation along with him to identify maximum areas of cooperation. The delegation includes officials who will discuss transfer of technology to Pakistan, he added.

Referring to Pakistan-Brazil relations, Ramiro Guerreiro said their relations have always been good and what is needed now is to further promote and strengthen them. On Pakistan-Brazil cooperation in the political field, he said the two countries share identical views on many of global problems.

On the Afghanistan problem, the Brazilian foreign minister said his country is strongly opposed to intervention by one country in another through use of force. Every country's independence should be safeguarded, he observed.

Joint Communique

BK041625 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Pakistan and Brazil have demanded the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. This has been stated in a joint communique issued in Islamabad today at the conclusion of Brazilian Foreign Minister Ramiro Guerreiro's visit to

Pakistan. The joint communique says the continued presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan poses a grave threat to the security of the region and it will have far-reaching consequences for world peace and security. Both countries welcomed the efforts of the UN secretary general in finding a comprehensive political settlement of the issue based on the proposals contained in the relevent UN resolutions which have received overwhelming support from the international community. The Brazilian foreign minister commended the humanitarian assistance given to the Afghan refugees and affirmed that his country will support all such efforts which aim at helping the Afghan refugees to return to their homes with dignity and honor.

The Brazilian foreign minister exchanged views with his Pakistani counterpart on the current international situation, especially the situation in Asia and Latin America. Both foreign ministers expressed serious concern at increasing world tension caused by the continuing confrontation between East and West and by the arms race. Both sides agreed that the situation in Central America demands that states directly affected by it should find a solution through negotiations. They also stressed the need to intensify efforts to find a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution in the Middle East and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

The joint communique again appeals to Iran and Iraq to end the war.

Both sides also stressed the need to resolve the Namibian issue immediately; they demanded that an effective solution be found to the current world economic situation.

On bilateral relations, both sides expressed their firm determination to strengthen friendship and cooperation in all sectors, especially in trade, science, and technology. They exchanged views on modalities for obtaining the services of experts for development projects in each other's country and for setting up joint ventures. They agreed that there should be an exchange of experts in the fields of new and renewable sources of energy, irrigation, low cost housing, and agriculture research.

The Brazilian foreign minister invited Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan to visit Brazil soon. The invitation was accepted.

Later, before his departure, the Brazilian foreign minister said that his visit will further promote bilateral relations between the two countries. He said he exchanged views with President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and the federal ministers for finance and foreign affairs on bilateral matters, regional issues of mutual concern, and important international issues. Answering a question, he said the possibility of cooperation in agriculture research has been identified. The Brazilian foreign minister said the agreements signed between the two countries today will increase trade relations.

Earlier, the Brazilian foreign minister called on President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this afternoon and exchanged views with him on various matters. The president expressed the hope that the visit of the Brazilian foreign minister will bring both countries still closer.

IAEA Head Sees 'Sufficient Safeguards'

BK040722 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] The director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Dr Hans Blix, has said Pakistan possesses the organizational qualifications and technical expertise to launch large projects in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. He said as Pakistan has been implementing a comprehensive program of peaceful uses of nuclear energy for a long time now, its stand on further development of this sector is much stronger and more appropriate than in other nations. Dr Blix said he had seen Pakistan's various plans, which had shown him Pakistan seriously needs nuclear energy. He said it is generally understood in Western nations that developing nations should not try to acquire a nuclear science capability until they possess appropriate safeguards to run nuclear installations. Dr Blix said after visiting Pakistan's various administrative and medical nuclear installations he understood that Pakistan has sufficient safeguards and trained manpower for further developing nuclear energy.

He said there are no differences between the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission.

NEPAL

Team Set Up To Investigate Attack on Rally

BK071039 Hong Kong AFP in English 1028 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Katmandu, March 7 (AFP) — The Nepalese Government has set up a three-man team to investigate an attack on a rally of the outlawed Nepali Congress in which one person was killed and 31 wounded.

The team is headed by the Council of Ministers acting secretary Tek Bahandur Khatri, the government said in a statement yesterday.

Congress leader Girija Prasad Loirala earlier said that about 400 men had attacked a crowd of 3,000 people gathered to listen to him speak at Surjura village in western Nepal on Saturday.

He said the unidentified men, whom he charged were hired toughs, had attacked the unarmed villagers and party activists for nearly 90 minutes and attempted to set fire to the house he was occupying.

"This was not political opposition but a masterminded crime," he said.

The dead man, identified as Yadav Nath Alok, was seriously injured in the attack and died later in hospital. He was cremated on the banks of the Narayan River about 120 kilometers (75 miles) south of here, a party spokesman said.

Asked yesterday whether the Nepali Congress would participate in the general election due in 1986, Mr. Koirala said: "So long as democracy is not fulfilled under the present partyless policy we are not going to contest the election, nor shall we join the panchayat (partyless) system.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Comments on 'Tackling Terrorism'

BK071135 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] President J.R. Jayewardene, addressing the government parliamentary group yesterday, said that the biggest obstacle faced by the government in tackling terrorism in the north and east is the lack of informants on the crimes committed. He said that the cooperation of the public was essential to help the police and Armed Forces in this regard.

The president said that the nature of terrorism faced in the north was individual terrorism. It was different from the 1971 insurrection, which was a mass attack on the government, police, and Armed Forces, a conspiracy against the government and was like a war. The terrorism faced today is rural and urban and is prevalent worldwide — in India, Italy, Burma, Malaysia, and Ireland. Many countries have taken various measures but had not been able to stop the violence.

Mr Jayewardene said that even if they arrive at a solution in the all-party conference on ethnic issues, he did not think that terrorism will end. The aim of such terrorist acts was to create dislocation and unrest.

AFP: Security Forces on Alert Against Death Squads

BK060714 Hong Kong AFP in English 0710 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Colombo, March 6 (AFP) — Security forces in Sri Lanka's north were on alert last night to prevent further strikes by so-called death squads which have eliminated nine young Tamils in five days, it was learned here today. So far today there have been no reports of further killings by the death squads which are spreading terror among the people, one resident told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by telephone from the northern capital of Jaffna.

Security forces set up roadblocks and patrolled the troubled northern territory where some minority Tamils have taken up arms in a bid to establish an independent state because of what they claim to be state-sponsored discrimination against them.

The killings began last Wednesday almost immediately after security forces rounded up 10 Tamil youths in a major sweep on February 28. The young Tamils were suspected of involvement in a spate of bank robberies in January and February which is believed to have netted them over 53 million rupees (about 2.1 million dollars).

Notes on or near the bullet riddled bodies stated the victims were killed because they were "anti-social" elements and were involved in robberies and thefts. The notes claimed that such acts earned the militant separatist movement a bad name.

However investigators now believe it possible that they were targetted because they could provide information about the movement's top echelons.

Trade Minister Leaves for Jidda 3 March

BK041155 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali left for Jidda last night with a message from President Jayewardene to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. Mr Athulathmudali, who leads a 20-member delegation to Saudi Arabia, will also discuss ways and means of promoting trade between the two countries. The investment of Saudi capital in Sri Lanka will be discussed at length by the trade minister and Saudi officials. Mr Athulathmudali plans to explain Sri Lanka's political environment to Saudi businessmen and encourage them to invest here. A seminar for this purpose will be held in Saudi Arabia. Minister Athulathmudali is also due to meet the Sri Lankans employed in Saudi Arabia and discuss their problems.

The Sri Lankan delegation, comprising representatives of the Greater Colombo Economic Commission, will later visit Kuwait.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on War, Foreign Media

GF070735 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Excerpts] According to our correspondent, Islamic Guidance Minister Khatemi yesterday afternoon met Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He was accompanied by officials of the ministry abroad who are in Iran to participate in a seminar of cultural officials abroad. During the meeting, Mr Khatami first reported on the work of the seminar. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then said in a speech:

There is no doubt that the main source for finding out how things are done in foreign countries is such seminars and the collection of successes and defeats which can open the way for us all. In addition, Mr Khatami is very familiar with propaganda and cultural programs in Islamic and foreign countries. He can be very effective in this respect. The current situation of propaganda in the world today, considering the level of popular understanding, is highly effective. Since propaganda can have an immense effect on the outcome of wars, we have been witnessing an immense enemy propaganda attack in the past few days. They have been trying to make the maximum use of the complex technical facilities available and the experience gained to effect our fronts.

Referring to the fact that the rulers of the world have come to realize that the message of the Islamic Republic of Iran does not recognize any borders, he said: It is not only because of a group of Iranian Muslims that they have brought out such immense forces against us — forces whose philosophers clearly confess that they are afraid of the message of Islam. This is because they have realized that there are issues within the bosom of Islam that can affect the entire world.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued: Let us look at this issue of terrorism, that they have raised across the world in order to better observe the role of deceitful propaganda in the world. French sources, whose country harbors a mass of terrorists responsible for a large number of explosions and assassinations, have not complained against their own officials and no wave against such an ugly trend in the French society can be seen. The situation is the same in the United States and other places. In the United States, Iraq was considered a terrorist country for 10 or 15 years and now that it is fighting us, the United States has changed its tune and is a supporter of Iraq side by side with France and other countries. In turn, it is now accusing Iran of terrorism, even through they have not been able to find one incident that can be attributed to the Islamic Republic. They only rely on some general remarks we occasionally make. For example, they say that the people of Lebanon are terrorists because they use bombs against them or Iran is a supporter of terrorism because Iran supports the people of Lebanon. However, they repeatedly drop bombs and rockets on the people of Lebanon and the people of Lebanon, who cannot fight them in a front, are forced to use their bombs on the ground and against them. This act of the people of Lebanon is not terrorism. How is it that thosewho throw fire on the people from above are not terrorists? The world of today is truly a morally decadent one. They falselycreate criteria for moral issues and accuse people of breakingthem when they want and use it as a subject of propaganda. Unfortunately, the mental attitude of those striken by the West or the East in the world makes them extremely susceptible to such propaganda. We have come to realize now that many of the magazines and media of the world which we thought were free are the lackeys of some power and for the sake of obtaining material wealth, they resort to any satanic trick.

Noting the lies and the creation of an atmosphere concerning the Khaybar operations by the East and the West, the imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council stated: One of the most epic actions of the Hezbollah surfaced in the Khaybar war. If you come to understand the war's details you will realize the depth of this epic. The children of Islam went forward around 40 km in Iraq's Al-'Uzayr and Al-Qurnah regions which are marshland without any transportation access and managed to kill, wound, or capture a large number of Iraqis and obtain a great deal of booty. The methods they used in the attack baffled the enemy, who was unable to discover the source of danger! The forces of Islam combed the shores of the Tigris and then, since there was no need for them to stay there, they withdrew and created another epic when, with their very clever tactic of fight and withdraw — against enemy aircraft, artillery, and ground fire — they dealt more crushing blows against the enemy!

Referring to the desparate enemy propaganda, the imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council then said: The Iraqi regime took a number of correspondents to an area where the warriors of Islam had been fighting in the past and, shamelessly gathering a number of holy bodies of our martyrs from other fronts together with a large number of Iraqi bodies and using photographs, films, and propaganda, they falsely claimed that Iran had so many martyrs at this one point alone. That is at a time when our total losses at all the fronts was very small. Unfortunately, correspondents who have to be true to history and record it soiled themselves with such disgraceful acts in order to boost the morale of Iraqi commanders and soldiers. He added: They even misused my remarks with trickery. When I said that we had around 100 martyrs and wounded in Al-'Uzayr region, they twisted my words and said that Iranian officials lie to their people and are pretending that they only had 100 wounded and martyred in this immense Khaybar operation.

Addressing the audience, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then said: You must be aware and recognize such trickery. Research social psychology and learn the techniques of propaganda and pass them to the relevant organizations. I stress here that you must always rely on truth since we do not like the deceitful Western tricks. They do not recognize God and have no understanding of the lordly attributes wherein a large number of humane and ethical bonds stop us from using the same methods. Therefore, rely only on truth, justice, and reality.

IRNA Report

LD070937 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Tuesday that those opposing the Islamic Republic were not scared of a group of Muslim Iranians but rather had noticed that Muslims' adherence to an uncompromising Islam could have a consequential impact on the whole world.

In a meeting with Ershad Eslami (Islamic guidance) Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami, and the ministry's representatives abroad, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that because Islam emphatically opposed the shackling of man by Eastern and Western powers, rulers of some Muslim states were ostentatiously pretending to be Islamic-seekers.

As an example, the Majlis speaker referred to the chopping off of the hand of a thief in Sudan through which the Sudanese ruler Ja'far Numayri staged a propaganda campaign on his Islamic-seeking tendencies. But, he added, these attempts resembled the same deceitful measures the toppled Shah and his family resorted to in the last days of the rule of the former regime.

Stressing that present realities in Iran were tangible for the world, the Majlis speaker said that representatives of the Ershad Eslami ministry had a grave responsibility in conveying the message of the Islamic Republic.

He then referred to the present biased propaganda system in the world, adding that the United States which for the past decade include Iraq in its list of terrorists, had now reversed its position and together with France was explicitly announcing its support for the Iraqi regime.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani argued why those bombarding Lebanese people were not labeled terrorists whereas oppressed Lebanese who planted bombs on the way of the aggressors to defend themselves were described as such.

The Majlis speaker who is also Imam Khomeyni's representative at the Supreme Defence Council further commented on the recent Khaybar offensive launched by the Islamic combatants on Feb. 21 and said that in this operation forces of Islam advanced tens of kilometres through marsh lands inside Iraq with scant equipment and inflicted heavy casualties and damages on the Iraqi enemy.

He criticised fabricated reports on Khaybar offensive aimed at pleasing Iraqi commanders and lifting the morale of Iraqi forces, adding that even his own statements when he referred to 100 casualties for Iran in Al-'Uzayr region were distorted, noting that such reports alleged, too, that Iranian officials were telling lies to their people by claiming that the Islamic Republic had only suffered 100 casualties in Khaybar offensive.

He then warned the representatives to be aware of such conspiracies, urging them to rely only on realities since it was the policy of the Islamic Republic.

Joint Operations Center Communique No 17

LD061719 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Communique No 17 of Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Heroic Muslim nation, martyr-nurturing Iranian nation: Your brave and self-sacrificing children, continuing the victorious Khaybar operations, succeeded in heroically repulsing the counterattack of the defeated enemy forces, which started this morning. More enemy forces were killed. In these clashes, which took place in the southern part of the Majnun Islands, situated inside the Khaybar operational sector, the members of the liberating forces of Islam, while killing or wounding more than 1,000 enemy forces, succeeded in destroying more than 40 percent of the 16th Armored Brigade, the 702d Infantry Brigade, the 93d Infantry Brigade, the 35th Infantry Brigade, the 4th Infantry Battalion, and the 3d Brigade under the command of the 6th Armored Division of the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist Armed Forces. In these clashes, the victorious forces of Islam also succeeded in destroying more than 55 tanks, personnel carriers, and vehicles of the defeated Ba'thist forces, setting them on fire, and in capturing a considerable amount of equipment and weapons.

[Signed] Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Repelling of Counteroffensive in Majnun Described

LD071113 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1057 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] The Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, center of the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, has announced:

The brave RPG launchers of the forces of Islam yesterday, Tuesday, during the process of repelling an enemy counteroffensive, put the invading tanks of the Ba'thist forces out of action.

According to this report, the combative forces of Islam, who repelled the enemy counteroffensive on the southern axis of Majnun Islands, from 0600 hours yesterday, with unprecedented bravery, are continuing to strengthen their positions.

According to this report, the enemy, who had suffered heavy casualties while the counteroffensive was being repelled, opened heavy fire on the Majnun Islands from the early hours of yesterday. Our combatants returned enemy fire with the utmost intensity.

A report received describes the enemy's strange confusion during the course of the brave resistance put up by our combatants, in such a way that the Ba'thist mercenaries projected several flares over the positions of our combatants in broad daylight.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

frightening the Iraqi people including the execution of combatant theologians, destruction of hoseyniyehs and mosques and even the arrest and execution of relatives of combatants and Muslim elements.

He added that Saddam has embarked on a bloody purge in order to remain in power but the world powers and the reactionary regimes of the region who have spared no help for Saddam during his imposed war should know that Saddam and his regime are falling and the Iraqi nation would after Saddam's overthrow, treat Saddam's supporters the same as him (Saddam).

NVOI Says People Reject 'War Until Victory' Slogan

TA022013 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 2 March 84

[Unattributed commentary: "People Demand End to Imposed and Destructive War"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: Almost 3 and 1/2 years have passed since the beginning of the destructive and devastating war imposed on the people of our homeland and the Iraqi people by imperialism, headed by America.

U.S. imperialism — which with the victory of our people's February 1979 popular and anti-imperialist revolution and the overthrow of Mohammad Reza Shah's mercenary and despised regime, lost its greatest base in the Middle East region and whose plots to stage a coup and overthrow the revolution from within resulted in defeat — strived by launching a military aggression from abroad to occupy revolutionary Iran within a short period and to install a puppet government that it favored. However, in this respect too it miscalculated and its plan was foiled. Throughout Iran, women and men, young and old, rose as one to defend the homeland's independence and territorial integrity, as well as the revolution and its gains, and in a considerably short period drove out the aggressor.

After victory in Khorramshahr and the prolongation of the war, the people gradually realized the war's counterrevolutionary nature. Hardly anyone went to the front with enthusiasm and fervor and showed the same selflessness and sacrifice of the war's first phase. When the Islamic Government's leaders saw that the people's exhaustion from and indignation at the futile and destructive war were increasing daily, they pretended that victory in the war and the occupation of Iraq's entire territory was very simple and near. In their Friday prayer sermons, speeches, and religious talks, they said that Saddam was drawing his last breath, that Saddam was in the throes of death, and that the Ba'thist regime will fall today or tomorrow.

At the start of every large-scale offensive, they promised the people that with this or that offensive we would reach Karbala' and that Saddam would be finished. Large-scale offensives were launched and ended one after the other but there was not the slightest sign of Saddam's downfall and the conquest of Iraq. The fact was that in every large-scale offensive, Iranian forces — by suffering thousands of dead and wounded — advanced several kilometers and occupied a few positions; after an Iraqi counteroffensive, they suffered thousands more dead and wounded and were forced to retreat to their initial positions. Were we to place as a basis for judgment the claims by the leaders and mass media of the Islamic regime about the casualties of the Iraqi forces and the advance by the Iranian forces, at present the Iraqi forces should have been annihilated to the last person and Iranian forces would have occupied by now not only the entire territory of Iraq but also Lebanon and Israel and should have reached the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

However, 2 years after the conquest of Khorramshahr, we are witnessing the fact that the Iranian forces have not made any substantial advance, let alone the conquest of Iraq and the downfall of Saddam. The mass media, propaganda organizations, and the leaders of the Islamic regime for some time bragged with the utmost fanfare and tumult about the glorious victories and astounding advances by the armies of Islam in the Val-Fajr operations. The Val-Fajr operations have now passed their sixth stage, yet there is still no sign of victory. In the latest military operations too, as in all previous military operations, thousands of our youths and youngsters wree killed, towns and villages were devastated, and billions in financial damage were inflicted on the people. In return, major capitalists, powerful merchants, hypocritical clergy, and other leaders of the Islamic Government have made and are making billions in profit. The working people and the middle strata, who are bearing the intolerable burden of the war, can take it no longer and are demanding an immediate end to this futile war of attrition — which is in every way to the benefit of imperialism and its Iranian agents — through the conclusion of an honorable and just peace agreement. The Iranian people reject the slogan of "War, war until victory" by the Islamic regime's ruthless rulers as a condemnable slogan.

Nateq-Nuri on Transfers, Afghans, Border Control

GF061044 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 26 Feb 84 p 12

[Report on exclusive interview with Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri in Tehran — date not given]

[Excerpts] In answer to our correspondent's question about the changes and transfers of governors general, the interior minister said: There are a variety of reasons for this. One of them is that when a governor general has worked in a province for a while and has concentrated all his creativity on the issues of that province, he will naturally feel tired and a change of location can give him a new arena to again use his creativity. This increases work efficiency. In addition, his replacement also enters the province with new ideas and opinions which add to the previously implemented ones. He added: Another reason for the move is that some governorsgeneral are more capable and can handle larger provinces. The interior minister also said that political considerations and lack of coordination between various government and provincial agencies in a province are among other reasons for changing the governors general.

He talked about the transfer of the former governor general of Lorestan: When Engineer Taheri was selected as the new

governor general for Tehran and considering that the East Azarbayjan Province has special and sensitive conditions, we concluded that Engineer 'Abedini, who at the time was the governor general of Lorestan, would be capable of dealing with the problems because of his special talents.

The interior minister then noted the struggle of the people of Lorestan: You may remember the welcome the Lorestani tribes gave to the martyr Raja'i, during the era of the refugee Bani-Sadr, with all their weapons and how they dealt with the counterrevolution afterward. Even though the majority of the people of Lorestan are currently armed, we have no political problem in that province today because they are faithful to Isalm and the Islamic Revolution and serve the revolution. They are among those people who form the major portion of our warriors at the fronts.

With respect to the exact date for the Majlis elections, the interior minister stated that the date will be subject to the final approval of the Majlis election laws by the Majlis and the Council of Guardians. He added: When the Interior Ministry has been notified of the law, then the elections will take place around a month from that date.

On the subject of cooperation and relation between the Information and Interior Ministries, he said: Following the formation of the Information Ministry, all information facilities will be put at the disposal of this ministry and operational and law enforcement forces can be put at the disposal of this ministry as agents to carry out the regulations. The form of cooperation has been described in the relevant regulations.

In answer to a question about the propaganda of the oppressive media concerning the treatment of Afghans, their expulsion or dispatch to the fronts by the Islamic Republic, and the fact that such adverse propaganda is not unexpected, he said: This has no foundation and our treatment of our sister and brother Afghans is based on clear Islamic policies. Referring to the various reasons for issuing identity cards, he called it a plan to identify the spies and mercenaries of the superpowers and stressed that Iran will strongly deal with puppet Afghans and ruffians.

In answer to a question on the patroling of borders, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri referred to various Interor Ministry projects such as formation of border patrol units by the Gendarmerie, establishment of border post by joint committee and Gendarmerie forces, and the construction of border roads to enable the posts to carry out their duties, which have all been designed to precisely control the 12,000 km of the Islamic Republic's borders. He announced that all of this is part of the Interior Ministry's 7-year plan to control the borders. He added that the Majlis approved a 300 million tuman budget for border security for the current year, all of which has been absorbed, and that a larger budget has been proposed for next year for this very important matter.

National Oil Company Figures Disclosed

GF070555 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] According to a report disclosed today on the performance of the Iranian National Oil Company, the average daily oil distribution by the company has risen from 75 million liters — a figure established prior to the victory of the Islamic Revolution — to 115 million liters at present. This amount is being distributed throughout Iran via a 2,300-km-long pipeline network and over 1,000 tanker trucks. The motor oil production of the company is about 1 million liters daily.

Revenue From Oil, Gas Sales Reported

GF051704 Tehran IRNA in English 1638 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Mashhad, March 5, IRNA — Government revenues from oil and natural gas sales during the past 11 months (March 21, 83-Feb. 19, 84) totaled 1,450 billion rials (dls. 16 b.) up by 150 billion rials (dls. 1.7 b.) compared to previous year, said the Minister of Economics and Financial Affairs Hussein Namazi here today.

He further added that during the said period tax revenues of the government was 677 billion rials (dls 7.6 b.) increased by 360 billion rials (dls. 4 b.) in comparison with the previous year.

The minister of economics further added that the draft of the new tax bill has been submitted to the cabinet ministers and is expected to be approved by the Majlis by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20). In this bill higher taxes for the wealthy has been emphasised and those with low income would be exempted, he added.

Seminar of Guildsmen, Bazaar Associations Ends

GF021646 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA — A three-day seminar of guildsmen and Islamic associations of bazaar ended here Thursday by issuing a 14-point resolution.

The secretary general of the associations, Sayyad Amani, speaking to IRNA said that the seminar was held to discuss economic issues of the country and also the forthcoming Majlis elections.

He said that the seminar was in conformity with the January first speech of Imam Khomeyni, to a group of people from bazaar who called on him, in which the imam gave highly important guidelines and stressed the need for unity and the decisive role the bazaar played.

One of the achievements of the seminar, Amani added, was arranging some 230 ambulances and vans to be sent to the

warfronts, which would be the fifth caravan from bazaar during the current (Iranian) year.

The resolution while stressing adherence to the velayat-e faqih (office of the religious jurisprudence) said that the Iraqi imposed war was the main issue in the country. Furthermore it condemned any plot or adventurism of world oppressors, led by the U.S., in the region.

It also stressed that members of the bazaar would continue their efforts for materialisation of the objectives of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and its advance.

Furthermore it urged members of the bazaar throughout the country to follow the orders of Imam Khomeyni and alongside the committed ulema, actively participate in the upcoming Majlis elections so that competent and committed candidates would be elected.

The resolution stressing the need for self-sufficiency and independence called for promoting of export of non-oil goods.

Montazeri Stresses Self-Sufficiency in Science

LD021452 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Professors, students, and employees of the universities of Tabriz, Gilan, and the Kashan College of Higher Education, together with Aminian and Gharavi, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri's representatives for universities, students from the faculty of the Voice and Vision, officials from the regional education department of Kordestan and Khorramabad, deputy ministers for forestry from the Agriculture Ministry, and Iran's ambassadors to the GDR, Pakistan, and Tanzania yesterday visited Grand Ayatollah Montazeri for discussions.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri praised and thanked them and offered a prayer for the life of the leader of the revolution and for the ultimate victory of the warriors of Islam. He then gave a detailed talk on the subject of self-sufficiency in science, giving content to revolution slogans, and then need for effort and seriousness in raising the level of science and learning in universities. On the Islamic view of the importance of science, he said:

The foundation of a nation's independence is its scientific dimension: If we are dependent scientifically and industrially on others, in addition to our slogans being bereft of content, strong blows will be dealt to our political and military independence. He emphasized: The university is a place for learning and science. Professors and students must preserve these places as such and understand that their holy war is to strive toward and acquire learning. If they fulfill their duty of teaching, learning, and becoming educated in the best possible manner, they should know that they have done the greatest service to Islam and to the country.

Referring to the numbers and abilities of Iranian youths, he stressed: Our minds have been filled with the idea that science and industry must come from Europe and America and that we cannot be like them: This is mere superstition.

Reportage on Fighting in Afghanistan

GF040619 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] The revolutionary Afghan Muslims in a recent victorious operation against government and Soviet soldiers in Lashkar Gah, in Helmand Province of Afghanistan, killed 31 government soldiers and 4 Soviet advisers. In this operation, the mujahidin also captured a large quantity of weapons.

Soviet Paper Cited

GF041118 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] *KRASNYA ZVEZDA*, organ of the Soviet Army, admitted in its issue yesterday that the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have attacked and seized weapons from Soviet forces in Afghan mountain passes. The paper pointed out that the Soviet forces are encountering attacks from Afghan Muslim revolutionaries in every region of Afghanistan. It wrote also that hundreds of Soviet soldiers perished in a gigantic explosion in the Salang tunnel, north of Kabul, in November 1982.

Incoming reports from Afghanistan state that the Afghan mujahidin attacked a truck transporting Soviet forces to Kabul and which was under heavy Soviet guard. Three of the Soviet soldiers were seriously wounded.